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glorious and free



A LOOK AT CANADA




Citizenship and
Immigration Canada

Citoyenneté et
Immigration Canada

Canada

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50 YEARS OF CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP

The year 1997 marks a very special anniversary in the history of our country. Most people do not realize that our citizenship is a relatively new idea. As recently as 50 years ago, Canadians were considered British subjects residing in Canada, not Canadian citizens.

It was not until after World War II, with the passage of the first *Citizenship Act*, that an independent citizenship was introduced. 1997 marks the 50th Anniversary of this historic legislation.

The *Citizenship Act* came into being largely through the efforts of one man, a Cabinet Minister by the name of Paul Martin Sr. While visiting a military cemetery in France, during the closing months of the war, Martin was moved by the rows and rows of wooden crosses marking the graves of Canadians who had sacrificed their lives in the fight for peace and freedom. Martin was particularly struck by the different ethnic and religious backgrounds of the names on the graves. He realized that despite the differences, these soldiers had all fought and died together to

defend the country they cherished and a cause they believed in. Martin began a tireless crusade to establish a separate citizenship that would serve as a tribute to their memory. On 1 January 1947, the Canadian *Citizenship Act* came into being, bringing with it a separate Canadian identity, new rights for Canadian women, and our own Canadian passport.

On behalf of the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, we would like to invite you to take this special opportunity to seek Canadian citizenship. If you are already a Canadian citizen, it is also an opportunity to reaffirm your citizenship and your commitment to Canada by participating in a ceremony in your community.



WHAT DOES CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP MEAN?

Canadian citizenship means being a part of Canada. Take a moment to think about what becoming a Canadian citizen means to you.

You could, for example, ask yourself the following questions:

- What would make me proud to be a Canadian citizen?
- What responsibilities will I have when I am a Canadian citizen?
- What can I do to show that citizenship is important to me?

If you would like to have more information about Canada for your own interest, a librarian can help you to find the resources listed at the end of this book.

What this book is for

This book is meant to help you to prepare for your citizenship test. It is also for anyone who would like a basic introduction to Canada.

A Look at Canada tells you how citizenship applications are processed and how to prepare for your test. It provides the information about Canadian history, geography, government, and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship which you may be asked about on your citizenship test. Remember to look at the map on page 12. It can help you to understand the contents of this book.



Applying for citizenship

When you apply for citizenship, government officials will check your documents, your immigration status and whether or not you have a criminal record. They will also make sure that you understand the requirements for citizenship. **To become a Canadian, you must:**

- be 18 years of age or older;
- be a permanent resident who was lawfully admitted to Canada;
- have lived here for three out of the previous four years;
- speak either English or French; and
- know the information about Canada contained in this book.

Your application may take several months to process. Make sure that the Call Centre (see page 29 for numbers) always has your correct address during this time.

The citizenship office will send you a "Notice to Appear" telling you where and when to appear for your citizenship test.

At the citizenship test, you will be asked questions to check your knowledge of Canada, your understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and your ability to speak either English or French.

How to prepare for your citizenship test

Study this book and ask a friend to help you practise answering questions about the information in this book. Call the local school or college or community centre for information about citizenship classes and language classes in your community.

This is a written test. When it is time for your test, try not to be nervous. If you can relax before your test, it will be easier to understand the questions and to think of the answers.



Becoming a Canadian

At your citizenship test

The test will ask you questions about voting, about Canada's history, geography and government and about the rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship. For example, one question might be, "How many provinces and territories does Canada have?". There are questions at the end of this book. You may use them to practise for your test. You will have to find out some information yourself to complete the sections on page 34 about the federal, provincial and territorial governments.

After your successful test

The office will tell you if you have been successful. You will receive a "Notice to Appear to Take the Oath of Citizenship" telling you the date, time and location of your citizenship ceremony.

The ceremony is the final step in becoming a Canadian citizen. At the ceremony, you take the Oath of Citizenship, sign the Oath form and receive your certificate of Canadian citizenship.



Oath of Citizenship

*I swear (or affirm) that I will be faithful
and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty,
Queen Elizabeth the Second,
Queen of Canada,
Her Heirs and Successors,
and that I will faithfully observe
the laws of Canada
and fulfil my duties as a Canadian citizen.*

INTRODUCING CANADA

KEY WORDS

Official
languages

Multiculturalism

Throughout Canada's history, millions of immigrants have come to build this country. Today, Canada, a country with two official languages, welcomes people from more than 150 countries each year.

As Canadians, we are proud that many different cultural and ethnic groups live and work here together in harmony. The *Canadian Multiculturalism Act* recognizes our cultural diversity and states that we are all free to maintain and share our cultural heritage and to participate fully and equally in our national life.

The only people who are originally from Canada are the Aboriginal peoples. Aboriginal peoples lived in Canada for thousands of years before the first immigrants came here. The Aboriginal peoples of Canada are an important part of Canada's population. They are working to protect and promote their languages, cultures and traditions and to become self-governed.

In a country as large and diverse as Canada, the idea of equality is very important. We have shown how much we value this idea by having it written into the Constitution as the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. In Canada, we also believe in the importance of working together and helping one another.

People who help others without being paid are called volunteers. There are millions of Canadian volunteers across Canada.

Some people join community groups and help with local projects. Others help friends and neighbours in need. There are hundreds of different ways you can help others in your community.

Canada's official languages

English and French-speaking people have lived together in Canada for more than 230 years, and English and French are Canada's two official languages. Linguistic duality is an important aspect of our Canadian identity — over 98 per cent of Canadians speak either English or French or both. You must know either English or French to become a Canadian citizen.

Legal documents like the Canadian Constitution and the *Official Languages Act* show how the federal government protects the official language rights of individual Canadians.

For example:

- English and French have equal status and rights regarding their use in the Parliament of Canada, in federal courts and in all federal institutions;
- Everyone has the right to a criminal trial in either English or French;
- The public has the right, where there is sufficient demand, to receive federal government services in either English or French; and
- Official language minority groups in every province and territory have the right to be educated in their language.



Canada's economy

Canada's economy is a combination of many industries. There are three main types of industry in Canada: natural resource, manufacturing and service.

Natural resource industries include forestry, fishing, agriculture, mining and energy. These industries have played an important part in the country's history and development. Today, the economy of many areas of the country still depends on developing natural resources.

Manufacturing industries make products to sell in Canada and around the world. Manufactured products include things like paper, technological equipment, automobiles, food, clothing and many other goods. Our largest international trading partner is the United States of America (USA).

Service industries provide thousands of different jobs in areas like transportation, education, health care, construction, banking, communications and government. Over 70% of working Canadians now have jobs in service industries.

Canada from coast to coast

Canada is a very large country with an area of 10 million square kilometres, but it has a fairly small population. About 29 million people live here. Most Canadians live in the southern parts of Canada.

Canada is bordered by three oceans — the Pacific Ocean on the west, the Atlantic Ocean on the east, and the Arctic Ocean to the north.

The national capital

The national capital of Canada is Ottawa, Ontario. This is where the federal government and the Parliament Buildings are located.

Provinces and territories

Canada has 10 provinces and two territories. Each province and territory has its own capital city. You should know the capital of Canada as well as the capital of your province or territory (see page 12).



Automobile manufacturing

SYMBOLS OF CANADA

KEY WORDS

Confederation

British North America Act

First Prime Minister

Confederation

On 1 July 1867, the provinces we know now as Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia joined together in Confederation to create the new country of Canada. The *British North America Act* of 1867 made this Confederation legal.

As time passed, other provinces and territories joined in Confederation and became part of Canada.

The Parliament Buildings are in Ottawa, Ontario, the capital city of Canada. The tower in the centre of the buildings is called the Peace Tower.

Canada's first prime minister

In 1867, Sir John A. Macdonald became the first Prime Minister of Canada. His picture appears on the ten dollar bill.



The beaver is one of the symbols of Canada. It appears on the 5-cent coin.



In 1965, Canada adopted its official red and white flag with the maple leaf. All federal government buildings fly the Canadian flag.

Dates when Provinces and Territories joined Confederation

1867

Ontario

Nova Scotia

Quebec

New Brunswick

1870

Manitoba

Northwest Territories

1871

British Columbia

1873

Prince Edward Island

1898

Yukon Territory

1905

Alberta

Saskatchewan

1949

Newfoundland

KEY WORDS

Constitution
•
**Charter of Rights
and Freedoms**
•
Head of State

Canada's Constitution

Canada's Constitution is the system of laws and conventions by which our country governs itself. Until 1982, changes to the Constitution had to be approved by the British government. In 1982, the new *Constitution Act* allowed us to change our Constitution without asking the British government for approval. This is the year when the Canadian *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* became part of the Canadian Constitution.

When did your province/territory join Confederation?

Canada Day

Each year on July 1, we celebrate "Canada Day," the anniversary of Confederation.



Royal Canadian Mounted Police

The Queen

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is the Queen of Canada and Canada's Head of State. This means that the Queen is the formal head of Canada.



The Governor General is the Queen's representative in Canada. The Queen is also represented in the provinces by Lieutenant-Governors and in the territories by a Commissioner.

Canada's National Anthem

O Canada

O Canada! Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all thy sons
command.

With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The True North strong and free!

From far and wide, O Canada, We
stand on guard for thee.

God keep our land glorious and free!

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

ABORIGINAL PEOPLES OF CANADA

KEY WORDS

Inuit

•

First Nations

•

Aboriginal

Aboriginal peoples were the first people to live in Canada. They had many different spiritual beliefs and cultural traditions that have been passed down from generation to generation.

They lived in every region of the country. Often their survival in Canada's harsh climate depended on cooperation, sharing and respect for the environment.

The *Constitution Act* of 1982 recognizes three main groups of Aboriginal peoples in Canada: the First Nations and the Inuit, who were the first Aboriginal groups in Canada, and the Métis, who emerged after the settlement of Canada. Today, there are more than 53 distinct languages spoken by Aboriginal peoples. Most of these languages are found only in Canada.

People of the First Nations lived in all areas of Canada. Those who lived on Canada's coasts depended on fishing and hunting while those who lived on the prairies moved with the buffalo herds which they hunted for food, clothing and tools. First Nations people who lived in central and eastern Canada hunted and grew vegetable crops. Today, more than half of the First Nations people live on reserves. Others live and work in cities across Canada.

The Inuit lived and settled throughout the northern regions of Canada. They adjusted to the cold northern climate and lived by hunting seals, whales, caribou and polar bears. The majority of Inuit people live in the North today and some still hunt for food and clothing.

Many of the early French fur traders and some English traders married First Nations women. Their children and descendants are the Métis people. The Métis were an important part of the fur trade and they developed their own distinct culture on the prairies.

When Europeans arrived in what is now Canada, they began to make agreements, or treaties, with Aboriginal peoples. The treaty making process meant that Aboriginal people gave up their title to lands in exchange for certain rights and benefits.



Stanley Park, Vancouver, B.C.

Most of the agreements included reserving pieces of land to be used only by Aboriginal peoples. These pieces of land are called “reserves”. Today, Aboriginal groups and the Canadian government continue to negotiate new agreements for land and the recognition of other rights.

Aboriginal peoples in Canada are working to keep their unique cultures and languages alive. They are trying to regain control over decisions that affect their lives — in other words, to become self-governed. Aboriginal peoples continue to play an active role in building the future of Canada.

There are three main groups of Aboriginal peoples in Canada. The group we once called “Indians” are now known as “First Nations”.



MAP OF CANADA



*This map is based on information taken from the National Atlas of Canada Digital Base Maps, and more particularly described as Canada at the scale of: 1:30M.
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The Regions of Canada

Canada is a country of ten million square kilometres covering many different geographical areas or regions. These regions may include only one or several different provinces.

The regions of Canada are The Atlantic Region, Central Canada, The Prairie Provinces, The West Coast and The North.

The capital of Canada is Ottawa, in Ontario.

Province/Territory	Capital
Newfoundland	St. John's
Prince Edward Island	Charlottetown
Nova Scotia	Halifax
New Brunswick	Fredericton
Quebec	Quebec
Ontario	Toronto
Manitoba	Winnipeg
Saskatchewan	Regina
Alberta	Edmonton
British Columbia	Victoria
Yukon Territory	Whitehorse
Northwest Territories	Yellowknife

THE ATLANTIC REGION

Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland are Canada's Atlantic provinces. The early European explorers first came to this part of Canada to fish and trade with Aboriginal peoples.

Later, settlers built strong communities based on farming, fishing and shipbuilding.

The region's coastal location and natural resources have made the Atlantic provinces an important part of Canada's history and development.

The people

People of the First Nations fished and hunted along the Atlantic coast for thousands of years before the French explorer, Jacques Cartier, arrived in the 1500s. In the 1600s, French settlers, who became known as Acadians, were the first Europeans to settle permanently in Canada. Over time, they were joined by settlers from the British Isles and Germany.

In the late 1700s, thousands of British settlers moved to the Atlantic region from the United States. These people were known as United Empire Loyalists because of their loyalty to England. Some of the earliest Black settlers also moved to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick at this time.

Today, people of many different cultures and ethnic backgrounds live in the Atlantic region. Many are descendants of the earliest arrivals. New Brunswick is the only officially bilingual province in Canada, and about one-third of the population lives and works using French.



Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia

Antigonish, Nova Scotia



Millview, Prince Edward Island



Mill River Resort Golf Course,
Woodstock, Prince Edward Island

The economy

Resource industries, including fishing, farming, forestry and mining, have always played an important role in the economy of the Atlantic region.

The Atlantic fishery is the oldest industry in the region. Protecting the fish stocks and preventing over-fishing is now a vital issue in the Atlantic provinces. Today, most manufacturing in the Atlantic region involves processing timber, agricultural crops and fish.

In Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, agricultural crops such as potatoes and fruit are sold as fresh or frozen food products in Canada and to other countries. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have extensive forests that allow these provinces to produce valuable products like pulp, paper and lumber. Forest products are the most valuable manufacturing industry in New Brunswick. Newfoundland, traditionally dependent on the fishing industry, is developing its other natural resources such as oil, nickel, copper and cobalt.

Service industries are also very important to the Atlantic economy and the majority of people have jobs delivering these services. As in the rest of Canada, more people work in financial services, banking, government, and personal services than in traditional resource industries.

The Atlantic Ocean is also important as a tourist resource in the region. The spectacular scenery and the beautiful coastlines and beaches attract thousands of tourists to the Atlantic provinces each year, creating many service industry jobs.

CENTRAL CANADA

Central Canada is made up of Ontario and Quebec. More than half of the people in Canada live in cities and towns in the southern parts of Quebec and Ontario, close to the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River.

This area is the industrial and manufacturing heartland of Canada. Together, Ontario and Quebec produce more than three quarters of all Canadian manufactured goods.

The Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway

There are five Great Lakes between Canada and the United States. The names of the lakes are Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario. These lakes have been an important waterway for thousands of years. Aboriginal peoples and fur traders first used the lakes to create trading networks in North America.

Ships from all over the world reach the Great Lakes from the Atlantic Ocean by using the St. Lawrence Seaway. The Seaway makes it possible for ocean going ships to

travel on the St. Lawrence River and the small rivers between the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes also provide fresh water for people and industries around their shores.

The Canadian Shield

The land in northern Quebec and Ontario is part of the Canadian Shield, a rock formation that is millions of years old. Canada is one of the world's leading producers of minerals because of the rich mineral deposits of gold, silver, nickel, zinc, copper, and iron ore which are found in the ancient rock of the Shield.

The Shield is covered by forests and part of Canada's major pulp and paper industry is based on the trees of this region. Some of the vast freshwater resources of the Shield are used to generate electricity.



St. Lawrence Seaway

THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

The people

The first inhabitants of Quebec were First Nations people and Inuit. Some of the First Nations people were the first to raise vegetable crops in the fertile lands along the St. Lawrence River. Aboriginal peoples in this region were fur traders and taught early settlers how to survive. Today, many Aboriginal communities remain throughout the province.

Settlers from France first established communities along the St. Lawrence River in the early 1600s. Quebec society today reflects this heritage.

More than three-quarters of Canadians who live in Quebec speak French as their first language. Over one-third of the population in Quebec speak both French and English, making it the province with the highest number of bilingual Canadians.

The province preserves and promotes the historic language and culture of its French-speaking citizens.

The economy

The resources of the Canadian Shield have helped Quebec develop important industries, including forestry, energy and mining. Quebec is Canada's main producer of pulp and paper and is a major producer of minerals like asbestos, gold, copper, silver and iron ore.

The province's huge supply of freshwater has allowed it to become Canada's largest producer of hydroelectricity.

The lowland areas of the St. Lawrence are a fertile farming region where vegetables, fruit and feed crops are grown. Dairy farms are common and Quebec has the largest dairy farming industry in Canada.

Quebec's many provincial parks, Laurentian mountains and historic sites play an important role in its tourism industry.

The region around Montreal has been an important financial, service and industrial centre since Confederation. Workers produce fabric, clothing, food, paper, metal and chemical and wood products. Montreal is also the centre of a vast transportation network and many transportation companies are located in this region, including more than half of Canada's aeronautics and space industry.



Place Jacques Cartier,
Montreal, Quebec

CANADA

Where does the name Canada come from?

In the early 1500s, Jacques Cartier used a First Nations word for village, "kanata", to refer to the whole country. European map makers later used "Canada" as a name for all the land north of the St. Lawrence River.



Quebec City Winter Bonhomme Carnival,
Chateau Frontenac in background

THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

The people

About one-third of all Canadians live in Ontario. Although most people in Ontario speak English, the province also has the most French-speaking citizens of all the provinces except Quebec.

The Algonquin and Iroquois First Nations were the earliest people to live in the province we now know as Ontario. By the late 1700s, the population began to grow rapidly. The arrival of thousands of United Empire Loyalists was followed by waves of other newcomers from the United States and Britain. Newcomers from all over the world continue to settle in Ontario.



Algonquin Provincial Park

The economy

Throughout Canada's history, the large population, rich resources and strategic location of Ontario have helped the province build a powerful economy. The majority of people work in the service and manufacturing industries.

In southern Ontario, the auto industry produces cars, auto parts and other transportation equipment. Products from the auto industry are one of Canada's key exports. Other manufactured goods include steel, machinery, metal, plastic and chemical products and food. Ontario mines are the biggest producers of metals in Canada.

These metals include nickel, gold, silver, platinum, uranium, zinc and copper.

Ontario's forestry industry produces pulp, newsprint, lumber and other paper products. The province's numerous rivers are a vital source of electric power. In Ontario, Niagara Falls is a well-known example of water power that generates electricity.

Southern Ontario has rich farmland. The Niagara Peninsula is a major producer of peaches, apples, grapes and other fruit crops. Ontario farmers also raise dairy and beef cattle, poultry, and vegetable and grain crops.



Toronto City Hall

THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES



*Traditionally dressed
Native Indian at
Calgary Stampede*

Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta are called the Prairie provinces. This region of Canada is known for its fertile agricultural land and valuable energy resources.

The Prairies

The Prairies are flat plains that stretch across the southern part of the region. This area has few trees and very fertile soil. Most of what was open grasslands is now used for farming, particularly grain crops, and for raising cattle.

The Prairie region is not all flat farmland. The northern and western parts of the region include gently rolling hills, valleys and rivers. In southern Alberta, the open prairies gradually rise to meet the Rocky Mountains along the border of British Columbia.

The people

The First Nations people were the earliest inhabitants of the Prairies and were skilled buffalo hunters. Their descendants and the Métis people became important suppliers, traders, guides and interpreters for the fur trade.

French-speaking people have lived in the Prairie provinces since the early days of the fur trade. Descendants of these early arrivals still live in the Prairie region.



Life in the Prairies



Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

During the late 1800s, the Canadian government built a railway across the Prairies to the Pacific coast that made immigration to western Canada much easier. In the early 1900s, about three million people came to the Prairies from Europe and Britain. Many settled on land that the government offered at cheap prices to encourage settlement in the west.

The economy

As in the rest of Canada, the majority of people in the Prairie provinces work in service industries.

Manitoba's manufacturing industries produce a variety of products, including food, machinery, transportation equipment, metal products and clothing. In Saskatchewan the most important manufacturing industries produce food and chemical products.

Manitoba Stampede



Pysanka Festival, Vegreville, Alberta

Agriculture

The Prairies have some of the most fertile farmland in the world. Prairie farmers and ranchers produce grains (such as wheat), meat and other food products for markets in Canada and other countries. In Manitoba, the agricultural industry benefits from high rainfall and farmers produce a wide variety of grain crops and livestock. Saskatchewan is the leading wheat producer in Canada and is one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world. Alberta leads the country in beef cattle and feed grain production.

Energy resources

The Prairies are rich in energy resources. About one half of all the energy used in Canada comes from oil and natural gas. Alberta is the country's major producer of these fuels. Alberta also has an important coal mining industry. Saskatchewan is a large producer of oil, natural gas, uranium and potash. Manitoba, known as the Land of 100,000 Lakes, has the most important source of hydroelectric power in the Prairie region.



Cattle ranching in Alberta

THE WEST COAST

British Columbia borders the Pacific Ocean and is known for its majestic mountains. There are three major mountain ranges in the province: the Rocky Mountains, the Columbia Mountains, and the Coast Mountains.

The people

First Nations people on Canada's West Coast developed a unique form of art which is best known through totem poles. Their art often represents whales, fish, bears and other animals.

British Columbia (B.C.) was settled by Europeans when the fur trade spread to the west in the early 1800s. In the late 1800s, thousands of Chinese came to British Columbia to help build the final section of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Many of their descendants still live in the province.

Today, the population of British Columbia includes many people from Asia and other parts of the world.

The economy

British Columbia's rich natural resources have always been important to the economy. The province has the most valuable forestry industry in Canada. About one half of all the goods produced in British Columbia are forestry products.

Heavy rainfall and steep mountain slopes in the province create ideal conditions for generating electricity and B.C. is Canada's second largest producer of hydroelectric power.

Salmon fishing is also a valuable industry on the West Coast and Pacific salmon are sold all over the world. The famous fruit orchards of the Okanagan Valley lie between the mountain ranges in the central area of B.C.

The natural beauty of the West Coast brings thousands of tourists to the province to fish, hike, camp and ski in the mountains.



Vancouver is the third largest city in Canada. The city provides important shipping and air links between Canada and other countries across the Pacific Ocean such as China and Japan.

THE NORTH

Canada's northern region is divided into the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Together, they cover more than one-third of Canada. The Canadian government is responsible for the territories but elected legislatures make decisions on most issues.

The people

The North is a vast land area but has a small population. More than half of the people who live in the Northwest Territories (NWT) and about one quarter of the Yukon's population, are Aboriginal peoples. In recognition of this fact, the territorial governments have given several Aboriginal languages the same official status as English and French.

The economy

Europeans first came to the North in the late 1600s because of the fur trade. The Hudson Bay Company controlled the northern lands and fur trade for 300 years. Some northern people, including many Aboriginal peoples, still earn money and obtain food through hunting and trapping.

Mining, oil and gas are very important to the northern economy. Thousands of miners first came to the Yukon during the "Gold Rush" at the end of the 1800s. There are gold, lead and zinc mines in both territories today. Oil and gas deposits are being developed and people continue to explore for more of these valuable resources.

Inuit prints and soapstone carvings are sold throughout Canada and the world. In the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, a large number of Aboriginal people produce Aboriginal arts and crafts and many work in co-operative businesses for this purpose.

Climate

The North is sometimes called the "Land of the Midnight Sun." In the height of summer the daylight can last for up to 24 hours. During the brief summers the land blossoms. Winters in the north are long, cold and dark. The Yukon holds the record for the coldest temperature ever recorded in Canada (-63°C).

The people in the Northwest Territories have voted to make the eastern region into a separate territory called Nunavut, which will come into existence on 1 April 1999.



Northwest Territories

GOVERNMENT IN CANADA

There are three levels of government in Canada: federal, provincial/territorial and municipal (or local). The responsibilities of federal and provincial governments were first defined in 1867 by the *British North America Act*.

In general, the federal government takes major responsibility for things that affect all of Canada. These include national defence, foreign policy and citizenship.

Provincial and territorial governments look after things like education, health care and highways. They share responsibilities with the federal government in some areas.

Municipal (or local) governments in each city or community are responsible for things like policing, fire fighting, snow removal and recycling programs. Canadian citizens can vote in elections for all three levels of government.

The Parliament of Canada

Canada is a democracy and has a system of parliamentary government. Parliament has three parts: The Queen, The House of Commons and The Senate.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is our Head of State. The Governor General of Canada is the Queen's representative in Canada.

Canadians elect representatives to the House of Commons. The elected representatives are called Members of Parliament (or MPs). The people who serve in the Senate are chosen by the Prime Minister and appointed by the Governor General. They are called Senators.

The Prime Minister is the leader of the political party with the most elected Members of Parliament sitting in the House of Commons.



View of Parliament Buildings from the Rideau Canal, Ottawa, Ontario

FEDERAL ELECTIONS

Canadians vote in elections for the people they want to represent them in Parliament. With each election, the people may re-elect the same Members of Parliament (MPs) or choose new ones.

Federal elections are usually held about four years apart. The Prime Minister may ask the Governor General to call an earlier election. According to Canada's Constitution, an election must be held within five years of the last election.

Canada is divided into 301 electoral districts. An electoral district is a geographical area represented by a member of the House of Commons. The citizens of each electoral district elect one Member of Parliament who sits in the House of Commons.

Any Canadian citizen who is at least 18 years old can run in a federal election. The people who run for office are called candidates. There can be many candidates in an electoral district.

The people in each electoral district vote for a candidate of their choice. The candidate who receives the most votes becomes the MP for that electoral district.

An elected MP represents everyone who lives in his or her electoral district, even the people who did not vote for the MP. Your MP is your link to the federal government. Your MP helps you by:

- representing your ideas when new laws are being proposed;
- asking questions about the government on your behalf; and
- helping you if you need information from the government or if you have any problems with the government.

It is easy to contact your MP.

To find the name of your MP, look in the Blue Pages of the telephone book under Government of Canada. Call the number under "Information and referral to federal programs and services". Give your address to the information officer who answers your call and he or she will give you the name and telephone number of your MP.

Your MP has an office in your electoral district. You can also write to your MP by sending your letter to:

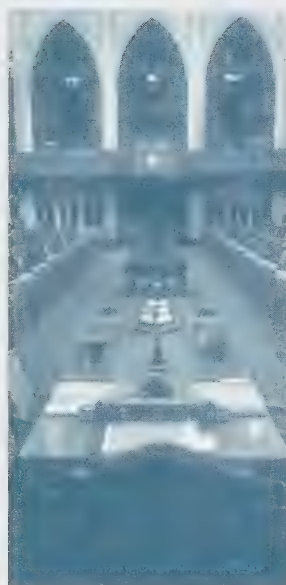
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Remember, letters sent to MPs in Ottawa do not need stamps.

Political parties

Most candidates in federal elections belong to a political party. A political party is a group of people who share ideas about how government should work. Some political parties have been around for a long time but Canadians can create new political parties at any time.

Members of political parties hold meetings where they discuss their ideas and opinions. They develop plans for what they would do if their candidates were elected to form the government. The plans they make are called the party platform.



House of Commons

Members of political parties help to:

- decide on the party platform;
- choose the party leader;
- choose the party's candidates; and
- campaign for party candidates in elections.

Candidates who do not belong to a political party are called independents.

Voting

One of the privileges and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship is the right to vote. Elections Canada is the non-partisan agency of Parliament responsible for conducting federal elections and referendums.

You can vote in a federal election or cast a ballot in a federal referendum if you are:

- a Canadian citizen and
- at least 18 years old.

The voters lists used during federal elections and referendums are produced from the National Register of Electors, a permanent data base of Canadian citizens 18 years of age and older, qualified to vote in federal elections.

The National Register of Electors contains the name, address, sex, and date of birth of qualified electors. Elections Canada updates the National Register of Electors using existing data sources, including information from Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

It is important that as soon as your citizenship is granted and you become eligible to vote, you are added to the National Register of Electors.

When you apply for citizenship, you have the opportunity to check a box on the application to indicate your consent to the transfer of your name, address, sex, and date of birth to Elections Canada. Only the data given by new Canadians who have indicated this consent is transmitted to Elections Canada. The information can be used only for electoral purposes. Even if you choose not to be listed, you still have the right to vote. Your name can be added to the voters list right up to election day.

Once an election has been called, Elections Canada mails to each elector whose name is in the National Register of Electors a Notice of Confirmation of Registration card. The notice tells you when and where to vote. If you require an interpreter or other special services, it tells you the number to call.

Even if you do not receive a Notice of Confirmation of Registration card, you can still be added to the list right up to election day. For information on how to do this, contact Elections Canada. During an election period, your local newspaper will print the telephone number for the Elections Canada office in your electoral district. If you cannot find the number, call Elections Canada at 1-800-463-6868. (toll free)

To vote either on election day or at advance polls, go to the polling station listed on your Notice of Confirmation of Registration card. An election official there will give you a ballot. The ballot lists the names of candidates in your electoral district in alphabetical order from “A” to “Z.”

Mark the ballot by writing an “X” in the circle beside the name of your chosen candidate. Next, fold the ballot so no one can see your vote. Then, either put the ballot in the ballot box or ask the election official to do it for you.

Canada’s election laws say that your vote is secret. This means that no one can watch you vote and no one should look at your marked ballot. You may choose to discuss how you voted with others, but no one has the right to insist that you tell them how you voted.

Immediately after polling stations close, election officers count the ballots, and the results are announced on radio, television and in newspapers.

After an election

After an election, the party with the most elected representatives becomes the party in power. The leader of this party becomes the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister and the party in power run the government as long as they have the support of the majority MPs in the House of Commons.

The Prime Minister chooses several MPs to become cabinet ministers. Cabinet ministers are responsible for running federal government departments. The Prime Minister and cabinet ministers are called the Cabinet, and they make important decisions about how to run the country. They also propose most new laws. Their decisions can be questioned by all MPs in the House of Commons.

If a majority of the MPs vote against a major government decision, the party in power is defeated. The Prime Minister resigns and a new election is usually held.

The parties that are not in power are called the opposition parties. The opposition party with the most MPs is the Official Opposition. The role of the opposition parties is to oppose or try to improve government proposals.



Your vote counts!

MAKING LAWS

When the government proposes a new law to Parliament it is called a bill. MPs and Senators have several opportunities to debate each new bill in the House of Commons and the Senate. Then the MPs and Senators vote on the bill.

To become law, a bill must be approved by majorities in the House of Commons and in the Senate. Once a majority of MPs and Senators has approved the bill, the Governor General gives final approval and the bill becomes law.

The Canadian justice system

The Canadian justice system guarantees every Canadian resident political and legal rights and equality. Every Canadian, whether a citizen or a landed immigrant, has equal access to the justice system.

The laws, or written rules intended to guide people in our society, are made by our elected government representatives. The police and courts exist to enforce the law.

Canadians have rights and freedoms that are protected under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms through the justice system. Some of the rights and freedoms protected by the judicial system include:

- **Fundamental freedoms** — like freedom of religion, thought, belief, opinion and expression;
- **Legal Rights** — like the right to life, liberty and security of the person; and
- **Equality under the law** — every Canadian has an equal right to the protection and services of the police and courts.

Getting legal help

Lawyers can help you with your problems and act for you in court. If you cannot pay for a lawyer, there are legal aid services available free of charge or at low cost in most communities.

Other levels of government in Canada

Each provincial and territorial government has an elected legislature where provincial/territorial laws are passed. The members elected to the legislature are called Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), Members of the National Assembly (MNA), Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP), or Members of the House of Assembly depending on the province or territory.

In the provinces, Lieutenant-Governors represent the Queen. In the territories, Commissioners represent the Queen.

Municipal governments usually have a Council that passes laws (called by-laws) affecting the local community. The council includes a mayor and other elected representatives, often called councillors.

Provincial, territorial and municipal elections are held by secret ballot but other rules are not the same as for federal elections. It is important to find out the rules for voting in provincial, territorial and local elections so that you can exercise your right to vote.



CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All Canadians have certain rights and responsibilities that are based on Canadian laws, traditions and shared values.

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms is the part of the Constitution that legally protects the basic rights and freedoms of all Canadians. Some of the rights and freedoms that the Charter protects include:

- democratic rights, such as the right to vote;
- legal rights, such as the right to a fair trial;
- equality rights, such as the right to protection against discrimination;
- mobility rights, such as the right to live and work anywhere in Canada;
- Aboriginal peoples' rights; and
- basic freedoms, such as freedom of thought, freedom of speech, and freedom of peaceful assembly.



Proud new Canadian with her citizenship papers, Lethbridge, Alberta

Some citizenship rights are defined in Canadian laws, such as the right to be considered first (given preference) for jobs in the federal government.

Many of these rights and freedoms existed in earlier laws. However, with the creation of the Charter in 1982, they became better defined and better protected.

Having these rights brings responsibilities for everyone in Canada. Individual Canadians and Canadian governments have the responsibility to respect the Charter rights and freedoms of everyone in Canada. However, it is important to realize that the rights of a single Canadian or group of Canadians cannot interfere with the rights of any other. For this reason, courts must interpret the Charter from time to time to be sure that it is applied fairly in all situations.



Citizenship Rights

Under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, Canadian citizens are guaranteed the right to:

- Be a candidate in federal and provincial/territorial elections.
- Learn in either official language (see page 6).
- Apply for a Canadian passport.
- Vote in federal and provincial/territorial elections.
- Enter and leave Canada freely.

Citizenship also brings responsibilities. For example, it is a right and also a responsibility to vote in elections. Before you read the next section, review the list of rights and try to think of the responsibilities that come with them.

Citizenship Responsibilities

As Canadian citizens, we share the responsibility to:

- Vote in elections.
- Work to help others in the community.
- Care for Canada's heritage.
- Obey Canada's laws.
- Express opinions freely while respecting the rights and freedoms of others.
- Eliminate discrimination and injustice.

Getting involved in Canada

Being a Canadian citizen is more than voting and obeying laws. Being a citizen also means getting involved in your community and your country. Everyone has something to give to make Canada a better place. Here are some ways to participate:

- Join a community group such as an environmental group.
- Volunteer to work on an election campaign for a candidate of your choice.
- Help your neighbours.
- Work with others to solve problems in your community.
- Become a candidate in an election.

TO FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT...

Canadian citizenship

- Look for the pamphlet *How to Become a Canadian Citizen*
- Telephone a Call Centre

In **Montreal** (514) 496-1010

In **Toronto** (416) 973-4444

In **Vancouver** (604) 666-2171

For all other areas **within** Canada
1-888-242-2100

Note: If you are calling from outside Canada, please contact the Canadian Embassy, High Commission or Consulate covering your region.

Citizenship classes

- Contact schools and colleges in your area
- Go to your local library or community centre
- Contact local settlement agencies or ethnocultural associations

Canada

Ask a librarian to help you find books and videotapes about Canada. You could begin by asking for these books:

- *The Canada Yearbook* (published by Statistics Canada)
- *Canada: A Portrait* (published by Statistics Canada)
- *How Canadians Govern Themselves* (written by Eugene Forsey, published by Public Works and Government Services Canada)
- *The Canadian Encyclopedia* (published by McClelland and Stewart)
- *The Junior Encyclopedia of Canada* (published by Hurtig Publishers, distributed by McClelland and Stewart)
- *The Story of Canada* (written by Janet Lunn and Christopher Moore, published by Lester Publishing Ltd.)
- *Symbols of Nationhood* (published by Canada Communications Group)

Federal programs and services

- Contact Reference Canada at
1-800-667-3355



STUDY QUESTIONS

The questions on the citizenship test are based on the information in this book.

The test will ask you questions about Canada's electoral (voting) process, government structure, Confederation, main historical and geographical features and about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. You should also be prepared to answer more specific questions about your region's economy, geography and history. Use the questions on the following pages to help you prepare for your test. All answers can be found in the book.

Section I. Questions about Canada.

1. Who are the Aboriginal peoples in Canada?
2. What are the three main groups of Aboriginal peoples?
3. In which parts of Canada did the Aboriginal peoples first live?
4. What did the Aboriginal peoples living in your region depend on for survival?
5. From whom are the Métis descended?
6. In what industry did the Métis first work with European settlers?
7. Which group of Aboriginal peoples make up more than half of the population in the Northwest Territories?
8. Why are the Aboriginal peoples of Canada working to be self-governed?
9. From where did the first European settlers in Canada come?
10. Why did early explorers first come to Atlantic Canada?
11. Who are the Acadian people?
12. What three industries helped early settlers build communities in the Atlantic region?
13. Who were the United Empire Loyalists?
14. When did the United Empire Loyalists come to Canada?
15. When did settlers from France first establish communities on the St. Lawrence River?
16. In which type of industry did most early European settlers work?
17. Which trade spread across Canada making it important to the economy for over 300 years?
18. What form of transportation did Aboriginal peoples and fur traders use to create trading networks in North America?
19. For how long did the Hudson Bay Company control the northern lands?
20. What important trade did the Hudson Bay Company control?
21. When did thousands of miners first come to the Yukon?
22. What did the government do to make immigration to western Canada much easier?
23. Which group of people were important in the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway?
24. When was the Canadian Pacific Railway finished?

25. What did the federal government do to encourage people to settle in the Prairie provinces during the early 1900s?
26. What does Confederation mean?
27. What is the Canadian Constitution?
28. In what year did Canada become a country?
29. What document made Confederation legal?
30. Which document first defined the responsibilities of federal and provincial governments?
31. When did the *British North America Act* come into effect?
32. Why is the *British North America Act* important in Canadian history?
33. Which four provinces joined together in Confederation?
34. List each province and territory and tell when each one joined Confederation.
35. Which was the last province to join Canada?
36. When is Canada Day and what does it celebrate?
37. Who was the first Prime Minister of Canada?
38. Why is the *Constitution Act* of 1982 important in Canadian history?
39. What is the part of the Constitution which legally protects the basic rights and freedoms of all Canadians?
40. When did the Canadian *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* become part of the Canadian Constitution?
41. Name two fundamental freedoms protected by the Canadian *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.
42. Name three legal rights protected by the Canadian *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.
43. List four rights Canadian citizens have.
44. Who has the right to apply for a Canadian passport?
45. Who has the right to enter and leave Canada at will?
46. Who has the right to be considered first for a job in the Federal government?
47. What does equality under the law mean?
48. What does “mobility rights” mean?
49. Name six responsibilities of citizenship.
50. Give an example of how you can care for Canada’s natural heritage.
51. What will you promise when you take the Oath of Citizenship?
52. Explain how a citizenship right can also be seen as a citizenship responsibility, for example, the right to vote.
53. Give an example of how you can show responsibility by participating in your community.
54. Which legal document recognizes the cultural diversity of Canadians?
55. What are the two official languages of Canada?
56. Which legal documents protect the official language rights of Canadians?
57. Give an example of where English and French have equal status in Canada.
58. Where do most French speaking Canadians live?
59. Which province has the most bilingual Canadians?
60. Which province is the only officially bilingual province?
61. What does the Canadian flag look like?
62. What song is Canada’s national anthem?
63. Write the first two lines of Canada’s national anthem.
64. From where does the name “Canada” come?
65. Which animal is an official symbol of Canada?
66. What is the tower in the centre of the Parliament buildings called?
67. What unique art form was developed by First Nations people on the West Coast?
68. Why is the North sometimes called the Land of the Midnight Sun?
69. An Act of Parliament is required to make a new territory in Canada’s North. What will be the name of the new territory?
70. What is the population of Canada?
71. What three oceans border Canada?
72. How many provinces and territories are there in Canada?

73. What is the capital city of Canada?
74. Name all the provinces and territories and their capital cities.
75. Name the five regions of Canada.
76. What are the provinces of Central Canada?
77. Which are the provinces of the Atlantic region?
78. Which are the Prairie provinces?
79. What are the territories of northern Canada?
80. Name one province which is on the Atlantic coast of Canada.
81. Name a province on the Pacific coast of Canada.
82. Which region covers more than one-third of Canada?
83. Where do more than half of the people in Canada live?
84. One third of all Canadians live in which province?
85. What is the Canadian Shield?
86. Where is the Canadian Shield?
87. Where are the Canadian Rockies?
88. Where are the Great Lakes?
89. What are the names of the Great Lakes?
90. Where is the St. Lawrence Seaway?
91. Name two mountain ranges in Canada.
92. Which territory shares a border with another country?
93. Which province is known as the Land of 100,000 Lakes?
94. Which provinces are joined to New Brunswick by land?
95. To what ocean is Newfoundland closest?
96. Which mountain range forms a border between Alberta and British Columbia?
97. Which two provinces are closest to Prince Edward Island?
98. Which province in Canada is the smallest in land size?
99. Where are the Parliament Buildings located?
100. Which country lies on Canada's southern border?
101. What are the three main types of industry in Canada?
102. In what sorts of jobs do most Canadians work?
103. What country is Canada's largest trading partner?
104. Why are the Great Lakes important to Canada?
105. Why is the St. Lawrence Seaway important to Canada?
106. Why is the Canadian Shield important to Canada's economy?
107. List four important minerals found in the Canadian Shield.
108. Which province is one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world?
109. Which region is known as the industrial and manufacturing heartland of Canada?
110. Which region of Canada is known for both its fertile agricultural land and valuable energy resources?
111. Which two provinces produce more than three quarters of Canadian manufactured goods?
112. Which province is the biggest producer of metals in Canada?
113. Which province is Canada's main producer of pulp and paper?
114. Which province has the largest dairy farming industry in Canada?
115. Which province has the most valuable forest industry in Canada?
116. Which province is Canada's major producer of oil and gas?
117. Which province is Canada's leading wheat producer?
118. Which province is Canada's largest producer of hydro-electricity?
119. Which two fuels provide about one half of all the energy used in Canada?
120. Which products from Southern Ontario are one of Canada's key exports?
121. What are three minerals still being mined in both territories today?

122. Which city provides important shipping and air links between Canada and other countries across the Pacific Ocean?
123. What products are produced in the Niagara Peninsula?
124. More than half of Canada's aeronautics and space industry are located in which province?
125. For what is the Okanagan Valley famous?
126. What fish is a valuable industry on the West Coast?
127. Who is Canada's Head of State?
128. Who is the Queen's representative in Canada?
129. What is the name of the Governor General?
130. What do you call the Queen's representative in the provinces and territories?
131. What is Canada's system of government called?
132. What are the three parts of Parliament?
133. What are the three levels of government in Canada called?
134. Explain how the three levels of government are different.
135. Name two levels of government and explain how they are different.
136. Name two responsibilities of each level of government.
137. What do you call a law before it is passed?
138. How does a bill become a law?
139. What is the final step before a bill becomes a law?
140. What do the initials MP stand for in Canadian politics?
141. How are Members of Parliament chosen?
142. Who do Members of Parliament represent?
143. What does a Member of Parliament do?
144. What is an "electoral district"?
145. How many electoral districts are there in Canada?
146. In what electoral district do you live?
147. What four requirements must you meet in order to vote in a federal election?
148. What is a Notice of Confirmation of Registration?
149. What is a polling station?
150. What is a ballot?
151. What is written on an election ballot?
152. What do you mark on a federal election ballot?
153. What does voting by secret ballot mean?
154. Who has the right to vote in federal elections?
155. Who has the right to run as a candidate in federal elections?
156. Who do Canadians vote for in a federal election?
157. How is the government formed after an election?
158. How is the Prime Minister chosen?
159. When does an election have to be held according to the constitution?
160. What do political parties do?
161. What does "party platform" mean?
162. Name all the federal political parties represented in the House of Commons and their leaders.
163. Which federal political party is in power?
164. To which party does your Member of Parliament belong?
165. What does it mean for a political party to "be in power"?
166. What are the parties that are not in power called?
167. Which party becomes the Official Opposition?
168. What is the role of the opposition parties?
169. What party is the Official Opposition at the federal level?
170. What is a political candidate?
171. What do you call a candidate who does not belong to a political party?
172. What is a Cabinet Minister?
173. How are Senators chosen?
174. How can a party in power be defeated in Parliament?
175. What is the name of the Prime Minister of Canada?
176. What is the name of your Member of Parliament?
177. How can you contact your Member of Parliament?

178. Who do provincial members of the legislative or national assemblies represent?

179. What level of government passes “by-laws”?

Section II. Questions about your region.

180. When did settlers from Europe first come to your region?

181. Who were the first settlers in the area where you live?

182. Why did the early Europeans come to your region in the 1600s, 1700s, 1800s or early 1900s?

183. What is the capital city of the province or territory in which you live?

184. What are the major industries of your city, province, region today?

185. What is the most valuable manufacturing industry in your region today?

186. List three minerals found in your region.

187. List three natural resources important to your region's economy today.

188. List the activities which are important to the tourism industry in your region.

189. What has always been important to the economy in your region?

190. Who is your city councillor, alderperson, reeve or regional councillor?

191. What is the name of your mayor?

192. What is the name of your provincial representative (Member of Legislative Assembly, Member of Provincial Parliament, Member of National Assembly or Member of House of Assembly)?

193. What is the name of the Premier of your province?

194. Which political party is in power in your province or territory?

195. What is the name of the leader of the opposition in your province?

196. What is the name of your Lieutenant-Governor or Commissioner?

These questions have been developed as a study guide. You may be asked questions similar to these when you go for your citizenship test.



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